

- Q1*
- (a) a scooter comprising a running board supported by a front wheel and a rear wheel, said front wheel being connected to a handle bar by means of a steering shaft;
 - (b) a motor assembly detachably mounted to said steering shaft and comprising a case and a motor, said case housing a battery and said motor being electrically connected to said battery and said motor having an output shaft for engagement with said front wheel;
 - (c) a biasing mechanism operably associated with said motor and at least one of said scooter and said case to urge said output shaft into engagement with said front wheel.
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6. A scooter assembly, comprising:

- Q2*
- (a) a scooter comprising a running board supported by a front wheel and a rear wheel, said front wheel being connected to a handle bar by means of a steering shaft;
 - (b) a motor assembly detachably mounted to said scooter comprising a case and a motor, said case housing a battery and said motor being electrically connected to said battery and said motor having a shaft for engagement with one of said wheels; and
 - (c) a biasing mechanism operably associated with said motor and at least one of said scooter and said case to urge said motor shaft into engagement with one of said wheels; and
 - (d) wherein said scooter further comprises a pin and said case has a bearing portion for receiving said pin, so that said case is capable of pivoting with respect to said scooter.
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9. The scooter assembly of claim 1 further comprising a control mechanism attached to said handle bar to control the operation of said scooter.

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10. The scooter assembly of claim 1 further comprising a control circuit and a wheel sensor, said control circuit controlling the operation of said motor in response to a signal received from said wheel sensor.

11. The scooter assembly of claim 1 further comprising a control circuit and a current sensor capable of monitoring current flow to said motor, said control circuit controlling the operation of said motor in response to a signal received from said current sensor.

12. A method for operating a motorized scooter assembly, comprising:

- (a) providing a scooter comprising a running board supported by a front wheel and a rear wheel, said front wheel being connected to a handle bar by means of a steering shaft;
- (b) providing a motor assembly comprising a case and a motor, said case housing a battery and said motor being electrically connected to said battery and said motor having a shaft for engagement with said front wheel;
- (c) detachably mounting said motor assembly to said steering shaft; and
- (d) biasing said motor with respect to at least one of said scooter and said case to urge said motor shaft into engagement with said front wheel.

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14. A method for operating a motorized scooter assembly, comprising:

- (a) providing a scooter comprising a running board supported by a front wheel and a rear wheel, said front wheel being connected to a handle bar by means of a steering shaft;
- (b) providing a motor assembly comprising a case and a motor, said case housing a battery and said motor being electrically connected to said battery and said motor having a shaft for engagement with one of said wheels;
- (c) detachably mounting said motor assembly to said scooter; and

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- (d) biasing said motor with respect to at least one of said scooter and said case to urge said motor shaft into engagement with said one of said wheels; and
 - (e) wherein said scooter further comprises a pin and said case further comprises a bearing portion, and said step of detachably mounting said motor assembly to said scooter comprises receiving said pin within said bearing portion.
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17. The method of claim 12 further comprising the step of controlling operation of said motor in response to turning of said front wheel.

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19. The method of claim 12 further comprising the step of disengaging said motor from said front wheel and manually operating said scooter while said motor assembly is attached to said scooter.

21. A scooter assembly, comprising:

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- (a) a scooter comprising a running board supported by a front wheel and a rear wheel, said front wheel being connected to a handle bar by means of a steering shaft;
 - (b) a case mounted to said scooter and a motor, said case housing a battery and said motor being electrically connected to said battery and said motor having an output shaft for engagement with said front wheel;
 - (c) said motor being detachably mounted to at least one of said steering shaft and an axle of said front wheel of said scooter to engage said front wheel;
 - (d) a biasing mechanism operably associated with said motor and at least one of said scooter and said case to urge said output shaft into engagement with said front wheel, and said output shaft being

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selectively engageable with said front wheel.

26. A scooter assembly, comprising:

- (a) a scooter comprising a running board supported by a front wheel and a rear wheel, said front wheel being connected to a handle bar by means of a steering shaft;
- (b) a case mounted to said scooter and a motor, said case housing a battery and said motor being electrically connected to said battery and said motor having a shaft for engagement with said front wheel;
- (c) said motor being mounted to at least one of said steering shaft and an axle of said front wheel of said scooter to engage said front wheel;
- (d) a biasing mechanism operably associated with said motor shaft at least one of said scooter and said case to urge said motor shaft into engagement with said front wheel, and said motor being selectively engageable with said front wheel; and
- (e) wherein said scooter further comprises a pin and said case has a bearing portion for receiving said pin, so that said case is capable of pivoting with respect to said scooter.

REMARKS

The claims have been amended primarily to specify that the motor assembly is connected to the scooter so as to drive the front wheel of the scooter. This distinguishes the invention from all of the prior art which shows rear-wheel drive such as Patmont. Some claims which did specify a front-wheel drive unit, such as claims 2, 8, 21 through 25 and 27 through 31, were rejected as unpatentable over Patmont in view of Selwyn (British 1,518, 342). However, it is not a mere matter of design choice to locate the motor to drive either the front or the rear wheel. There are engineering considerations related to either choice and designs that are suitable for attachment to the rear wheel of a scooter are not suitable when it is desired to drive the front wheel of the scooter. The primary reason for this is that the